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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Educational Opportunities/School Attendance/
Labor Reserve SchoolsPLACE
ACQUIREDDATE
ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO

DATE DISTR. 30 DEC 54

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Acceptance into a higher educational institution in the Soviet Union is based on academic merit, and family background plays no part. The only exceptions would be such places as the Institute of International Relations. Graduates of such an institute would normally work abroad, and children of high Party officials could be more easily cleared for such work.
2. It can happen that students active in Party and Komsomol affairs would have an easier time receiving good grades, but such a situation is rare.
3. Scholarships (stipends) are sometimes granted because of political reliability, but basically the criterion is academic merit.
4. Needy students can obtain part-time work in laboratories, local industry, etc. A student's faculty dean would normally assist in obtaining work, though this is not an official duty.
5. Discipline in schools is probably worsening in line with the general decay of the Soviet system. However, in higher educational institutions discipline is not a factor, since students are graded on the basis of examinations and completed projects rather than on the basis of everyday studies and conduct.
6. Graduates of higher educational institutions who received their education at Government expense must take the job to which they are assigned after graduation or face arrest and prison.

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